



December 11, 2023

Hon. Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
Committee on Education & the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6100

Hon. Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education & the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6100

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott,

On behalf of the undersigned associations, we write to express our strong opposition to the offset contained in Section 7 of H.R. 6585, the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act, which the Committee will mark up tomorrow. While we appreciate the efforts of staff to address concerns and commend the Committee for the bipartisan work that led to this bill, the offsets contained in the bill represent an unprecedented and harmful shift in federal financial aid.

The federal financial aid system has always relied on the basic concept of students choosing the right institution for them and then receiving aid based on their individual circumstances. This is a model that has served students well for decades, yet the offset in this bill would upend this fundamental approach, instead creating a system where Congress selects winners and losers, limiting individual choice, especially for low-income students. It is not hard to envision other institutions being targeted in the future using the same approach because of their mission, governing structure or other characteristics.

Beyond the harmful precedent this approach would set, it will have negative consequences for students. Students will be pushed out of federal lending and into the private market where they will incur significantly higher borrowing costs. And that is for students who can secure financing – numerous students and families lack sufficient or positive credit to secure private loans. The offset language if enacted will result in many students paying more, and numerous others unable to finance their educations.

We are encouraged by the openness of the Committee to examining other alternatives, and we are eager to work with you on fixing the offset and addressing other specific concerns with the bill we've shared.

H.R. 6585 Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act
December 11, 2023

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators